

I Claim:

1. A snorkel, comprising:
 - an elongate breathing tube having an upper portion and a lower portion, a lower opening formed in the lower portion and an upper opening
 - 5 formed in the upper portion;
 - a mouthpiece formed at the lower opening;
 - a one-way valve disposed in the lower portion, the one-way valve oriented to prevent the flow of fluids through the valve into the lower portion, but to permit the flow of gases and fluids through the valve and
 - 10 out of the lower portion;
 - a check valve disposed in the upper portion, the check valve including a plate pivotable from an open position permitting airflow through the upper opening, and a closed position preventing airflow from the tube through the upper opening; and
 - 15 a spring member contacting the plate, the spring member biasing the plate in the open position.
2. The snorkel of claim 1, wherein the one-way valve includes a second lower opening formed in the lower portion, and a flap connected to the
- 20 tubular member and extending across the second lower opening.
3. The snorkel of claim 1, wherein the spring member exerts a biasing force against the plate, and wherein the snorkel further includes means for adjusting the biasing force.
- 25 4. The snorkel of claim 1, further including a cap connected to the upper portion and extending over the upper opening.

5. The snorkel of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the breathing tube is formed of a flexible material, the flexible material selected to permit a user to deform the breathing tube to approximately conform to the shape of the user's head.

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6. The snorkel of claim 5 wherein the flexible portion of the breathing tube includes a flexible wire element embedded in the flexible material.

7. The snorkel of claim 6 wherein the flexible wire element is a wire mesh.

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8. The snorkel of claim 1 further including a second breathing tube, the second breathing tube including a lower portion and an upper portion, the lower portion of the second breathing tube connected to the lower portion of the first breathing tube and the upper portion of the second breathing tube connected to the upper portion of the first breathing tube.

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9. The snorkel of claim 8, wherein the lower portion of the second breathing tube including a second one-way valve, the second one-way valve oriented to prevent the flow of fluids into the lower portion, but to permit the flow of gases and fluids out of the lower portion.

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10. The snorkel of claim 1, further including a pair of wire members extending from the mouthpiece, the wire members for positioning in a swimmer's mouth during use.

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11. The snorkel of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the breathing tube has a hydro dynamically efficient cross-sectional shape.

12. The snorkel of claim 11 wherein the cross-sectional shape is an air-foil shape.
13. The snorkel of claim 11 wherein the cross-sectional shape is a semi-circular shape.
14. The snorkel of claim 11 wherein the cross-sectional shape is ovular.
15. The snorkel of claim 1 further including a float coupled to the check valve, the float configured to move the check valve to the closed position when the float and upper portion are immersed in water.
16. The snorkel of claim 15 further including a spring latch configured to latch the check valve in the closed position when the check valve is drawn closed by the float.
17. The snorkel of claim 1 further including a splash guard connected to the breathing tube.
18. The snorkel of claim 17 wherein the splash guard includes a cup connected to the breathing tube.
19. The snorkel of claim 8 wherein the first breathing tube is an exhalation tube and the second breathing tube is an inhalation tube, the snorkel further including a one-way exhaust valve positioned to permit air from the lower portion to flow to the exhalation tube, and a one-way inhalation valve positioned to permit air from the inhalation tube to flow to the lower portion.

20. The snorkel of claim 1 further including a strap connected to the breathing tube and attachable to a swimmer's head.

21. The snorkel of claim 1 wherein the strap and the breathing tube are
5 configured for positioning of the breathing tube in approximate alignment with a central axis of a swimmer's face.

22. The snorkel of claim 1, further including a housing attached to the breathing tube, a radio in the housing and a headset coupled to the radio.

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23. A method of purging a snorkel during swimming, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a snorkel including an elongate breathing tube, a check valve in an upper portion of the breathing tube, a one-way valve in a lower
15 portion of the breathing tube, an opening in a lower portion of the snorkel, and a mouthpiece positioned at the opening;

(b) positioning the snorkel on the head of a swimmer, with the swimmer's mouth in contact with the mouth piece and in fluid communication with the opening;

20 (c) causing the swimmer to inhale and exhale through the mouthpiece;

(d) causing a volume of liquid to accumulate in the breathing tube;
and

(e) causing the swimmer to forcefully exhale a volume of air, the
25 volume of air closing the check valve to create a back-pressure in the breathing tube, resulting in expulsion of water from the breathing chamber.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the snorkel further includes a float coupled to the check valve, and wherein the method further includes submerging the snorkel, causing the float to close the check valve.

5 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the breathing tube is a first breathing tube, wherein the snorkel includes a second breathing tube, and wherein the method includes the steps of causing air inhaled by the swimmer to pass through the first breathing tube and causing air exhaled by the swimmer to pass through the second breathing tube.

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26. The method of claim 23, wherein the snorkel includes a splash guard and wherein the method includes the step of blocking movement of water into the breathing tube using the splash guard.

15 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the splash guard is moveable upon submersion or the snorkel into a closed position minimizing flow of water into the breathing tube.